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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Akihiko MARUYAMA

Group Art Unit: 1634

Appl No : 10/049,626

Examiner: D. Johannsen

Filed : May 24, 2002

For : METHOD OF DETECTING AND QUANTITATING MICROORGANISM  
HAVING SPECIFIC FUNCTION AND ITS GENE FROM NATURAL  
ENVIRONMENT, NOVEL 16SrRNA GENE DATA AND PROBES

**STATUS REQUEST**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

Applicant respectfully requests notification as to the status and a date as to when an Office Action will be issued in the above-identified patent application.

Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Akihiko MARUYAMA

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Reg. No. 29,027

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May 18, 2004  
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